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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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NOTICE.

ON and after the 1st of July, Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths will be charged \$1 each insertion.

Such Notices cannot be inserted in this journal unless endorsed with the name and address of the person by whom they are sent.

Yokohama, 25th June, 1874.

Notes of the Week.

THE news from China grows more and more warlike, and it is observable that besides the short newspaper paragraphs brought by every mail, which are often mere expressions of opinion of little value, unless they contain facts, there is generally some official despatch or correspondence which, like an index, shows the direction of public feeling very clearly. Of this nature is the reply signed W. K. T. to a letter subscribed 'Makoto,' both of which appeared in the *North China Daily News*, and were reproduced by us on Thursday morning last. Both of these deserve attentive consideration.

'Makoto' says that fifty-four Japanese were slaughtered by the Formosans, though he does not say when; and that four shipwrecked men were robbed and maltreated in 1871. All this is true. He adds that the claims for these wrongs were never investigated by the Chinese Government, "which proves," he says, "that the savages were far beyond Chinese influence, and over whom their authority did not extend." He says that the authorities of the Tsung-li-yamen discussed the matter with Mr. Soyeshima, "and made not the slightest objections to the punishment of the savages by the Japanese Government, leaving them entirely at the disposal of Japan." 'Makoto' thinks under these circumstances that Japan is right in the grounds of her action, that international law will support her, and he sees no reason to think that any difficulty will be found in arranging the misunderstanding with the aid of the two commissioners appointed for the purpose.

W. K. T.'s letter is by a very different kind of hand, as any one accustomed to writing on serious subjects will see in a moment. He says that the claims have never been considered because they have never been made, although years have elapsed since the occurrences complained of took place; that a mere verbal remark made by Soyeshima in an off-hand way just before taking his departure from the Tsung-li-Yamen, and answered in the same manner, does not constitute an agreement on so important a question as that referred to; and with warmth and evident knowledge and authority he defies 'Makoto' to prove "what he so emphatically declared that the Chinese Government left them (the savages) at the disposal of Japan." He concludes his letter as follows:—

"Our Government regards this aggression on the part of the Japanese as a serious breach of treaty stipulations, and accordingly decided to send a Minister of high standing to Formosa, to rid the island of the Japanese by one of these two ways: First, to act in a persuasive style; and should

this fail, then try the coercive; and I hope the Japanese will, ere this, find out their mistake, and evacuate the island with very little delay."

The wording of this letter is that of a man sure of his position. It is terse and to the point, and traverses each one of 'Makoto's' statements with an ease and authority which we earnestly hope may do something for the conversion, if only to silence, of the writers here or elsewhere who have done themselves and the Japanese Government the grievous wrong of supporting it in this affair. We are sadly afraid that we are entirely right in our view of it, and that the Japanese have no sound ground to stand upon in the question. We wish sincerely it had been otherwise, for the country has difficulties enough to contend with, and its well-wishers would a thousand times rather have seen it make a move of this nature only after the most deliberate reflection, with entire unanimity of opinion both in the Cabinet and among the people, and on grounds which were unimpeachable and unassailable from every side, than on such grounds as appear to have been made the foundations of the Expedition. Under any circumstances it could not but be expensive and dangerous. But if the diplomatic negotiations which preceded it had been open and definite,—if Japan had said to China, Our people have been murdered and we want the murderers punished; if you will not do it, we must and will,—no one could have gainsaid the subsequent acts, and Europeans would have been ready to concede, and unable to deny, that they sprang from a high-spirited determination on the part of the Government to avenge the injuries of its people. All question of the cost or the danger would have been set aside, and there would have been many tributes of admiration bestowed upon conduct which has had its analogies among all brave nations and spirited Governments. But the antecedents of this affair are all wrong, and from such a soil no good thing can spring.

THE question of foreign travel in the interior of Japan has been somewhat abruptly closed by the resolution of the Government to defer all further discussion on it until the revision of the treaties takes place. The Government does not consider that the country is yet ripe for its acceptance of the proposals of the Foreign Representatives, and has instructed its Ministers abroad to represent to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the various countries to which they are accredited, the grounds for this decision.

AN announcement was made on Wednesday last in the official Gazette to the effect that foreigners going into the interior, either at the instance of the Government or of Japanese Associations, must be furnished with passports, or passes, issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Hitherto such passes have been granted to foreigners by the Department under which they were engaged, or, if in the employ of private individuals, by passes obtained in any manner open to such private employers.

IT was stated in one of the evening papers of Thursday that the stay of the battalion of Marines now here is likely to be more prolonged than was generally expected. But the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 29th May contains the following statement. "The rumours which have been for some time in circulation that it is the intention of the Government to withdraw all the officers and men of the battalion of Royal Marines serving for some time past in Japan, are believed to be correct."

We have no fear of being charged with paying a bad compliment to the battalion, which is deservedly popular, when we say we trust these rumours are correct. Our belief is that the presence of foreign troops here, once so necessary, is no longer; and we gravely fear that the extreme disinclination the Japanese Government has shewn to open the interior to foreign travel is largely attributable to this cause. They dread, unreasonably as we know, but not unnaturally, as must be acknowledged, that in case of any trouble in the interior, these troops would be used for a rescue, and so long as this dread, or grounds for it, exist in the mind of the Government, we are strongly of opinion that no real progress can be made on this question, even at the period of the revision of the treaties. It is not difficult to account for these apprehensions on the part of the Government. They have listened, willingly enough perhaps, to those whose published letters on this subject have taught them that England desires to make herself the possessor of Japan, and laughable as is this idea to those who know her mind on these subjects, it cannot be expected to appear so to those who do not, and who cannot be blamed for not knowing it. The fact that we possess India and Hongkong weighs far more with them than the fact that during the late war with China England might have seized any part of it she liked, and held it against all possibility of being dislodged. That she did not do so is the clearest evidence of her views on these subjects; nor must it be forgotten that her interests in China are out of all proportion greater than those she possesses in Japan. But, in our opinion, it is useless to urge these facts so long as a British military force, be it never so small, is maintained in this country. It may also fairly be urged from the events of the past eighteen months and the present temper of the Japanese Government, that no success has attended our attempts to gain freer intercourse with the country. It must also be apparent to every one that though the Government is anxious and eager to tread in the path of the western nations, it can hardly be prevailed on to listen to European advice on any subject. Granting that much of this disposition arises from the innate idiosyncrasy of the Japanese mind, we are still of opinion that a vast and wholly unnecessary amount of irritation characterises it at this moment, and we are disposed to attribute this to removable causes, one of which undoubtedly is the presence of foreign soldiers in the country. There are few more powerful emotions than pride, few which stand on the border land of good and evil as it does, capable of being turned either to good or evil account by those who can evoke or provoke it in a legitimate or wrongful cause. While we think that nothing but evil, both to themselves and to the freedom of our mutual intercourse, can arise from flattering that vanity which is beyond question a grave defect in the Japanese character, we think their pride, when it assumes a defensive form, demands respect, and this pride must be wounded by the presence of a foreign soldiery on their soil. We insist on preserving our own pride, and are sensitive and irritated at the slightest wound to it. But we do not make sufficient allowance for the existence of it in others, and a feeling which might be utilized for the advancement of our mutual intercourse is roused against us, with consequences which are as patent as they are deplorable. The opening of this country, whether partial or total, should not be made a matter of threat, either active or passive. The sense of justice is violated by any such proceeding, and, as a matter of fact, it has failed as a policy. We defy any one to rise from the perusal of Mr. Adams' "History of Japan," which we have just been reviewing, in any contented frame of mind. There is throughout it the record of force, while there is little evidence of that moral suasion which was demanded by the peculiar condition of this country when the European nations approached it.

We wish to take no sentimental views of our relations with Japan and we willingly admit that acts were committed, and a course was pursued, by the Japanese which at times demanded the exhibition and even the employment of force. But the ideas and spirit which shaped the policy of the times he records in his first volume have traced a page of history of which the Christian nations have no reason to be proud. Some other pen will have to write the history of the times in which we are now living, and another generation will estimate the

amount of justice which has animated us in our present relations with the Japanese. Will impartial readers of that new generation have to rise from this coming history with the same feelings as those which must force themselves on the mind of the readers of the past history? We sincerely trust, not.

It has been said that the Kenrei were some time back ordered to report on the feeling of the people in the districts under their jurisdiction regarding the admission of foreigners into the country, and that this feeling has been found adverse to the measure. It was doubtless on this ground that the Government came to the resolution announced this week and closed the question for the present. We are unable to much attach importance to this expression of opinion, because no sense of the value of the measure to the country comes in to counterbalance the vague fears of the people, by far the greater part of whom have never seen foreigners and regard them with a traditional distrust. But see how generally this distrust has disappeared in the districts to which foreigners have gone. It has been the same over the whole world at first. Let any one who has travelled much in China testify to this. The people there are generally well-disposed enough, and would probably always be so but for the mandarins. In this country the universal testimony of foreigners is in favour of the amiable bearing of the people towards us. What appears to us so radically wrong in the decision of the Government is the relegation to a future, certainly more or less distant, of a question which might have been provisionally arranged now. But what is clear is that foreigners are mistrusted by the Japanese Government. The course of history during the past twenty years is in some sense responsible for this, and suspicions of a false and unfriendly nature have undoubtedly been sown in their minds by many about them who are unable to see that the best method of resolving this question is to do so by slow degrees. We have left our readers in no doubt as to our own view of case. We think the grounds urged by the Japanese disappear before a real knowledge of the question and of the probable consequences of granting the permission sought. But we think it a question for patient argument and reason, and certainly not one for threats, which have done infinite harm to it, first, because such threats could not be executed, and next, because they leave recollections which rise against the settlement of the case in the future.

SOME three or four years ago a gambling house was established in the Main Street of this settlement, the proprietor of which was said to have gone home in a very short time with something like fifty thousand dollars in his pocket—the feathers of the geese he had plucked. We called attention to the matter at the time, and Mr. Shepherd, then U. S. Vice-Consul, took it up with much vigour and cleared out the crew. He was not quite sure of his law, but he very boldly set it to work, relying that he would be borne out by the Washington Government—as, indeed, he was. We have been given to understand that one if not two similar establishments have been again started here, and we take this opportunity of calling attention to the fact.

Mr. Mitchell must hold as much power as Mr. Shepherd did. Can he not also do what Mr. Shepherd did? The way these things work is this. Young men succumb to the temptation these hells offer, become rapidly demoralized, and ultimately their employers suffer. Ruin, disgrace, flight, and possibly, sometimes terrible, etceteras of all kinds come afterwards. We sincerely trust that those who have the power will turn some sulphur upon this nest and smoke the proprietors out.

A deputation representing the majority of the English residents in Tokei waited on Dr. Wheeler on Tuesday to present him with a mark of their appreciation of his services during his stay there.

The following address and reply were read on the occasion :
 To EDWIN WHEELER, Esq., M.D., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Ed.
 SIR.—We have been deputed by the residents of Tokei to express to you the sincere regret which we have all felt at

your removal from among us. During your stay in Tokei your professional skill and unwearied attention to your patients have won for you the lasting gratitude of many and the regard and esteem of all of us, while your frank and manly disposition has made you many friends among those who have never had need of your professional services. We feel that we cannot allow you to leave us without endeavouring in some measure to mark our sense of the obligations which bind us to you, and we have therefore subscribed for the purchase of a piece of plate which may serve to remind you of the numerous friends and well-wishers you have left behind in Tokei. We assure you that you will always be warmly remembered by us, and that you bear with you our most hearty wishes for your future happiness and prosperity. Signed for the residents of Tokei,

C. A. McVEAN.
W. G. ASTON.
C. SHEPHERD.

A. L. DOUGLAS,
G. F. VERBECK,
H. B. JOYNER.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you most sincerely for the kind words you have spoken of me and for the handsome gift with which you have accompanied them. It did not require this substantial mark of your regard to occasion me pleasant memories of the time I had the good fortune to spend amongst you in Tôkio. It will be impossible for me ever to forget the genuine kindnesses I experienced and the true friendships I have had the happiness to form with you during my stay there.

To yourselves personally and to many other fellow-residents in the Capital who have joined with you in the manifestation of regard, I beg to tender my warmest thanks.

EDWIN WHEELER.

67, Yokohama, July 14th, 1874.

Judgment has been given in the Tokei Saibansho, in the case of the police who committed the late outrage at the British Legation, by assaulting and imprisoning William Woods, a constable of the Legation escort, on the 6th of May, of which full particulars were reported in the *Herald*. The Inspector of Police, the principal offender, who ordered the attack, has been committed to prison for one hundred days; five of the police acting under his orders have been condemned to fifty days' incarceration, one of their number—Yamamoto Sakitchi (not being a *samurai* like the others)—is to be imprisoned for fifty days with hard labour.—*Herald*.

A performance of sacred music will take place on Thursday evening next in Christ Church which we trust will be well attended. Two or three circumstances occurred on the occasion of the last performance which tended to make it less satisfactory than was hoped for, but we have no reason to fear anything of this nature on Thursday next, while some valuable assistance has been promised of which we had not the benefit on the last occasion.

The Chinese Merchants Co.'s steamer *Leeyuen*, from Tientsin, brings a couple of Gatling guns (*mitrailleuse*) and a considerable quantity of ammunition, intended for the use of the Chinese forces in Formosa. The Gatlings, which we believe were turned out at Nanking Arsenal, have been allowed to fall into a lamentable state of disrepair, as regards carriages and gear, and whether they retain their effectiveness in other respects is a question. We understand that the next trip of the *Leeyuen* will be southward, probably with the above noticed and other war material.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

Messrs. Knight & Co., of Newchwang, remark in their Circular, that the young King of Corea has shown some independence of thought and action, with the intention of manufacturing a native coin, in ordering all the Chinese cash to be sent out of the country.

A LETTER from Captain Belknap of the *Tuscarora* announces that soundings to the enormous depth of 4,658 fathoms or 5½ miles, have been found in the Japan Stream. This is a greater depth by nearly a mile than has ever yet before been accurately sounded.

At a meeting of the members of the Asiatic Society held on Wednesday evening the constitution of the Society was fully discussed, revised and settled.

On the night of the 9th instant, a terrific typhoon raged about and between Hiroshima and Simonoseki; the damage done is said to be immense. The crops have been ruined and property to a vast extent has been damaged.

THE Agents of the China Trans-Pacific Steam Ship Company received a telegram from San Francisco yesterday announcing the arrival of the *Vasco de Gama* in that port after a voyage of 16 days and 17 hours. It is announced that she will be despatched from San Francisco, on the 22nd instant.

LIST of silk shippers per M. M. Co.'s steamer *Tanais* :—

	France.	England.
Augustine Heard & Co.	5	—
Bolmida	23	—
Hecht, Lilienthal & Co.	8	—
Strachan & Thomas	—	0
Sundries	18	9
Total	54	15

THE GAS QUESTION.

WE are glad to hear that there is at last every chance of our streets being lighted with Gas before the dark days of winter are again upon us. As such a long time has elapsed since the Committee who were appointed at the meeting held on the 9th January, 1873 have made any sign, we were somewhat afraid that the interest in the matter had ceased, and that the scheme had proved abortive. It is, however, due to the gentlemen who have taken the matter up to say that they have had many difficulties to contend with.

For a long time after the publication of their report, which appeared in our issue of the 20th August last, the matter remained in abeyance, but, eventually, Mr. TAKASHIMAYA made overtures to the Committee with a view to re-opening negotiations. The difficulty, however, that had been formerly experienced with the Gas Company prevented the majority of the Committee from again acting. Their places were, however, filled up, and the result of the labours of the present Committee is that after many difficulties and much negotiation a draft agreement has been prepared which is as follows :—

DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR STREET LIGHTING PROPOSED BY TAKASHIMAYA KAYEMON AND REVISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE GAS COMEITTEE.

This agreement made the day of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-four, between Takashimaya Kayemon of Yokohama in the Empire of Japan, Merchant and Managing Director of the Yokohama Gas Company, hereinafter called the party of the first part, and the persons whose signatures are hereto affixed hereinafter called the parties of the second part witnesseth.

In consideration of this agreement the party of the first part for himself, his heirs, successors and assigns hereby agrees that he, his heirs, successors or assigns, or the said Company, will perform and supply the following work and commodities that is to say :—

First.—Will erect, fit, and make ready for lighting with gas in the street of that part of Yokohama known as the Foreign Settlement, such number of iron gas lamps and posts being not less than one hundred, and in such places, as shall be designated by the parties of the second part to this agreement.

Second.—That the said gas lamps shall be of similar pattern and makes to those already erected in and about the native town of Yokohama, and that the same shall be erected, fitted, and made ready for lighting with gas by the party of the first part within thirty days after the completion of this agreement by delivery of the same to him.

Third.—That on the expiration of the thirty days last aforesaid, and thence onward every day during the space

of one year, that is to say until the day of one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, the said lamps shall be supplied and lighted with gas by the party of the first part, his heirs successors or assigns, or the said Company, during the following hours, namely, in the month of—

January.....	from	P.M. to	A.M.
February.....	"	"	"
March.....	"	"	"
April.....	"	"	"
May.....	"	"	"
June.....	"	"	"
July.....	"	"	"
August.....	"	"	"
September.....	"	"	"
October.....	"	"	"
November.....	"	"	"
December.....	"	"	"

In consideration of which promises each of the parties of the second part for himself his Executors and Administrators hereby agrees that there shall be paid by him or them in the manner hereinafter set forth his proportion as hereinafter mentioned of the following sums to be paid to the said Takashimaya Kayemon, his heirs, successors or assigns, or the said Company on the following days that is to say—

On the	day of	187
On the	day of	187
On the	day of	187
On the	day of	187

First.—On each gas lamp so erected as aforesaid the sum of sixty-six cents of a Mexican dollar as interest for three calendar months in advance at the rate of one per cent per month on twenty-two Mexican dollars being the prime cost of each lamp.

Second.—And on each gas lamp so erected as aforesaid the further sum of thirteen Mexican dollars and thirty-five cents as payment for three calendar months in advance at the rate of four Mexican dollars and forty-five cents per month for the gas to be supplied to each lamp as aforesaid. Such payments to be made on the application of Takashimaya Kayemon, his heirs successors or assigns or the said Company, to each of the parties of the second part to this agreement in accordance with the apportionment of subscription hereinafter mentioned.

And it is hereby further mutually agreed between the parties of the first and second parts to this agreement in consideration of the premises that the payment of the sum of the two several amounts payable as aforesaid on each lamp, namely the sum of fourteen Mexican dollars and one cent shall be apportioned between the parties of the second part to this agreement in such manner as the said parties of the second part may determine between themselves. And the said parties of the second part agree so to determine the said apportionment between themselves and to make known such determination in writing to party of the first part within thirty days after the completion of this agreement by delivery thereof to the party of the first part, and the party of the first part hereby agrees to accept such determination and apportionment so to be made known to him in writing as setting forth the sum of money per quarter for the payment of which alone each of the parties of the second part to this agreement is individually for himself his Executors and Administrators to be responsible under this agreement. And no one of the parties hereto of the second part shall in any way be responsible to any one in any way whatever interested under these presents except for such moneys as by such apportionment as aforesaid shall be payable by him to the party of the first part. And it is hereby further expressly stipulated and agreed that the parties of the second part to this agreement shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the premises, be bound thereby only during the space of one year or such portion of one year as their respective tenancies, if any existing at the date of the signing of this agreement shall endure. So nevertheless and provided that if at any time during the term of this agreement the aggregate subscriptions payable by the parties of the second part to this agreement their executors or administrators shall in consequence of the expiry of tenancies be reduced as much

as ten per centum on the whole amount payable by them as aforesaid, then in such case this agreement shall at the option of the party of the first part his heirs successors or assigns or the said Company, after consultation with the Committee representing for the time being the parties of the second part, thereupon cease to be binding on the party of the first part his heirs successors or assigns or the said Company. In Witness whereof, &c.

Signatures,

It will be remembered that at the general meeting in January the feeling was unanimous in favour of an assessment upon rental value, and in accordance with this a resolution was passed to the following effect :—

‘That for the purpose of assessing the value of property, a Committee of eighteen be appointed, to be sub-divided into Six Committees of three each. Every such sub-division to assess the value of one-sixth part of the settlement. As soon as the whole assessment is completed the lists shall either be published in the newspapers, or circulated, and anybody who has to complain of the amount he is assessed at, shall do so to a Committee of six, composed of one delegate from each of the above six sub-Committees.’

The appointment of this Committee being left in the hands of the general Committee, they have, we understand, requested gentlemen to act who are particularly well acquainted with the value of property, and there is little doubt that the assessment can be proceeded with forthwith. It is to be hoped that the Community will assist the gentlemen who have undertaken this thankless task, by giving them information as to the actual rent paid, which we think in most cases would be the fairest basis upon which to estimate contributions. Many tenants, no doubt, will be quite willing to pay on this basis. As soon as the assessments have been adjusted, and any disputes, which cannot be numerous, settled in accordance with the mode mentioned in the resolution, those who signify their assent will be called upon to sign the agreement, and against their names will be placed the number of the lot and the amount per month payable in respect of it. This agreement limits the liability of those executing it to the amount they actually promise to pay.

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR HIOGO AND OSAKA FOR 1873..

MR. GOWER's Report, which we publish to-day, constitutes a commercial record of the Hiogo trade for 1873, and a history of the progress of the port during that year. The Returns appended to the Report, together with Mr. ANNESLEY's notes on the trade and progress of Osaka, must be deferred until our next issue.

Passing over the purely commercial portion of the Report, we observe that the water supply of the settlement has had the attention both of the local authorities and the residents. We cannot but regret that means were not devised by which a native company could undertake this supply; first, because it appears to us a very useful and legitimate form of native enterprise, and second, because, had there been some mixed committee of management, the ideas of the foreigners and those of the natives would have interacted upon each other, very possibly with good results to both sides. One of the great obstructions to the increase of native and foreign intercourse is the extreme rigidity of the foreign mind, the almost hopeless difficulty of persuading it that it can be in error, or that any other view than that which it holds can be correct and tenable. Some one has called our most valued statesmen mere crisis-makers, and if there is any ground for this reproach to those whom we all willingly admit to be our foremost men, what chance is there that that

blind beating about of impressions, which most men mistake for conclusions possessing objective truth, is really worth much? We are persuaded that half the mistakes we English make is attributable to the unmaliceable nature of our minds, which, if often a source of strength to us, is also quite as often a source of weakness.

It is satisfactory to read Mr. GOWER's report of the progress of the native part of the town, and when he speaks of the Municipal Council having contracted with an English company for the lighting of the settlement by gas, our thoughts are sorrowfully turned towards our own lampless posts, the opprobrium of our settlement, and the formidable enemies of the thoughtful stroller on dark nights.

The particulars Mr. GOWER gives of the Mint are interesting at the moment when a local controversy has been stirred regarding the value of the institution from a national point of view. It seems to us curious that this should be doubted, as the direct and indirect advantages to trade and industry of every nature which are derived from a trustworthy currency, are so universally allowed. Considering now enormously the small transactions of every day life are facilitated among the people by the possession of such a currency, and the cruel perplexities into which whole nations have been thrown by the want of it, we are a little surprised to find a view so retrograde urged as that to which we refer. A Mint is not, and should not be, a money making-machine to a Government in the sense that a large profit is extracted from the working of it. But it would be difficult to name any other institution so calculated to assure both the natives of a country, and foreigners in commercial intercourse with it, of the good faith of a Government, and the advantages of the confidence resulting from this are not to be lightly estimated, or measured by the mere expense of the establishment,—a burden, by the way, which might assuredly have been reduced in this country had the great advantage of supplying the eastern market with a trustworthy coin been kept steadily in view. As regards the maintenance of the foreign staff in the Mint, it is a question of the simplest expediency. Japan resembles, in some sense, a young house of business entering into transactions with older houses. Its intentions may be excellent, but intentions go a very short distance at first towards establishing credit. It must be known for years by its punctuality in meeting every engagement it has accepted, and until a reputation of this nature has been fully established by years of prudent and honourable dealing, any step which has the appearance, or involves the suspicion, of departing from this line of conduct, can only prove highly prejudicial. The country has a Mint of which it may justly be proud, and in which, so long as it is managed by a competent foreign staff, the world will have every confidence. But this confidence will disappear in proportion to the doubt which any change of management may throw upon the work of the establishment, and, it may be added, that there is no institution in the world which would so ill bear the slightest breath of suspicion as a Mint.

Passing by the questions of telegraphic and postal communication, both of which we have referred to on other occasions, we arrive at the line of railway, newly opened, between Osaka and Kobe. It is perfectly true that the construction of the line has occupied far too much time and cost far too much money. But there has been some tedious and difficult work to do, and the line is said to be very solidly made. Let us hope that the section to Kioto, and the extensions round Biwa lake to Tsuruga,

on the west coast, will involve less expenditure of time and money. Both are terribly squandered in this country, and considering that we have a good five hundred years of lee way to make up, the former at least should be held more precious.

REVIEW.*

THE appearance Japan has been induced to make at the various Exhibitions which have been held in Europe during the past few years has cost her a fair sum of money; but we are of opinion that it has been money well spent. It enabled her to claim an interesting position in the family of nations; and if admiration of her productions is any further advantage gained, the encomiums bestowed both upon the beauty of her works of art, and the merit and variety of the raw materials which attended in their train, suffice to prove that she gained such advantage without stint.

Of all these raw materials there is none more attractive, at least to the eye of the merchant or economist, than the specimens of her silk production, nor is there any industry in the country, short of that to which she is indebted for her food, which claims more attention or more amply rewards it. The work which M. Ernest de Bavier has produced on this subject seems to have been suggested to him by the Committee of the Vienna Exhibition of last year, and as it embodies the results of a considerable personal experience of the silk industry gained in this country, it should not be without interest for those so intimately connected with the silk trade as is the foreign mercantile community of this port.

Before we enter on the consideration of M. de Bavier's work, however, we must beg him to accept our congratulations upon its luxurious appearance. As a specimen of typography it is difficult to say too much in its favour; though a chapter here and there of extreme tenuity, commencing very low on one magnificent page and terminating very high up on the next, recalls the appearance of a single fruit served on an ample salver, or one of those paintings occasionally seen in the cabinets of the curious, in which a maximum of frame enshrines a minimum of the artist's work. We shall not greatly complain of this, however, in the presence of a book devoted to what is sometimes, half seriously, half facetiously, called by its votaries 'the noble article.'

Passing over M. de Bavier's first two chapters, the second of which, by the way, curiously illustrates the above remark, we come to the *Division Sericicole* of Japan, comprising a northern, a central, and a southern zone. Here the author falls into the common error of calling the main island of the Empire, Nipon—the error of our old geography books—Nipon, or, as we write it in English, Nippon, being the Japanese name for the Empire itself. Of these zones the northern and largest, extending from the provinces of Montsou and Oungo (we retain M. de Bavier's spelling) in the north-west, and Rikoutsou, on the north-east, down to Etshingo on the west, is said to furnish 20 per cent of the total silk, and 25 per cent of the total silk worms' egg production of the country.

We shall hardly be out of order here in remarking with regret that no measures have yet been adopted to ensure more uniformity in the spelling of Japanese names by European writers. We find, for instance, that the Chamber of Commerce writes Etchesen where M. de Bavier writes Etchizen. His Hachodji is constantly spelt Hatchogee; Sourounga, Suruga; Tshikousen, Chikuzen; Boushiou, Bushiu; Tsitshibou, Chichibu; Djoshiou, Joshiu; and so on. All this is a little discreditable to us, we think, and might very easily be corrected. M. de Bavier, in writing of the disease to which silk-worms are liable, names the scourge generally called Uji, *l'Oudshi*. Is any thing gained by this prodigality in the use of letters? We shall not pretend that they are very expensive commodities, but why use six of them when three answer the purpose? There is a story told of a cockney in want of coffee writing to his grocer for so many pounds of "kawphy." He might have pleaded possibly that his pronunciation of the word justified this spelling, and that there was

* La Sericiculture, le commerce des Soies et des graines et l'industrie de la Soie au Japon. Par Ernest de Bavier. Lyon H. Georg. Milan, Dumolard Freres, &c.

some ingenuity in evading the use of any one of the letters ordinarily employed in the composition of the word. But uniformity is an important thing, and where it might be, it should be, secured.

We have on more than one occasion suggested that the Italian vowels, with their ordinary well-known values, should be employed for Japanese nomenclature. This system has been adopted by Dr. Hepburn, Mr. Satow, Mr. Aston, and nearly every prominent Japanologue, and in questions of this nature the footsteps of acknowledged scholars should guide those who tread the same path. The use of our own vowels is entirely inadmissible, a remark which does not apply to M. de Bavier's book, of course, where the vowels are employed with their strictly French values. But it would add another leaf to the laurel with which the now celebrated "Exercices in the Yokohama Dialect" has been crowned, if the English vowels were for the future, and owing to its warning though unconscious influence, banished by the English speaking nations from the rendering of Japanese nomenclature.

The central zone comprises Sinshu, Djoshu, Shimozouke, Mousashi, Koshu, Shida and Etschion, and furnishes 65 per cent of the silk and 70 per cent of the silk worms' eggs of the entire production of the Empire.

The Southern zone embraces Goshion, which surrounds the Biwa lake, Etshizen, Tadjima, Tanba, Tango and six smaller and unimportant provinces. It furnishes 15 per cent of the total silk, and 5 per cent of the total silk-worms' egg production of the country.

Of the total quantity of silk annually produced in Japan, M. de Bavier writes as follows:—

It is impossible to give exact data upon the total production of silk and *cartons* (cards of silk-worms' eggs) in Japan, as the native statistics differ so much from each other as to appear purely imaginary. Some, for example, estimate the annual production at 40,000 bales, others at 90,000 and even 200,000; in some the northern zone figures for 45,000 bales, in others for 25,000 to 10,000 &c. Last year the Government published some statistics touching silk and *cartons* which gave the total average annual production of the past three years at 45,000 bales; the number of *cartons* for the year 1872 being estimated at 1,800,000.

Much minute research and information taken from Japanese whose position lent weight to their authority, bids us believe that the Japanese manufacture of silk goods has diminished since the commencement of the silk export by 40 per cent, and that, of the 15,000 bales exported annually, 12,000 have by this means been available for export. The other 3,000 bales should, in our opinion, be assigned to the efforts made since the birth of the silk export, the increase of which up to this time has been estimated at 25 per cent, or the equivalent of 7,500 bales, the remainder of which, viz 3,500 bales, is devoted to the manufactures of the country. The total production of Japan, therefore, adding the 21,400 bales used now and heretofore in the native manufactories, would be 36,500 bales.

It will be understood that we give these figures under reserve, as there exist no proofs of them, since, so long as the quantity of eggs consumed in the interior of the country is not exactly known, it is impossible to draw solid conclusions on this subject. This quantity is variously indicated in the native statistics, but it is generally held that the government reserves 1,200,000 *cartons* before the export is permitted. This figure would give, at 22 kilo. of cocoons per *carton*, 26,400,000 kilo. of cocoons, 15 of which making a kilo. of silk, we should have 1,760,000 kilo. or 35,200 bales of silk of 50 kilo., which would nearly tally with our calculation given above.

We are inclined to think Mr. de Bavier's calculation on this subject is not far from correct.

Our author next proceeds to tread of the silk industry as pursued in Japan, the diseases to which the worms are subject, the chief seats of the trade, the various silk districts, the comparative importance of the open ports as silk marts, etc. He then passes on to a general review of the history of the trade, the statistics of which, comprising the quantities and values exported during the past eleven years, together with a tabulated review of the prices obtained, he gives in a succinct form.

We shall hardly be far wrong in estimating the yearly value of silk and cocoons exported from this country as 10,000,000 dollars, so that Japan during the last thirteen years has received little short of 130,000,000 dollars for her produce of this article alone. Before the arrival of foreigners in the country, a picul of the best silk was worth about 150 dollars. The average price in 1862 was 472 dollars, and 960 dollars in 1868, and in view of this prodigious rise in the value of the article, and the fact that the production of silk does not increase, Mr. de Bavier proceeds to consider the causes which have operated to prevent this increase of production. These he finds, after having sifted

many contrary opinions and given his reason for rejecting them, in the following facts.

The large gains which the preparation of silk worms' eggs gives to the producer induced a great many growers to devote themselves to this and abandon silk reeling. Although these gains are smaller than in Europe they greatly exceed the profits which accrue from reeling, and all travellers in the interior of Japan have remarked the appearance of greater comparative opulence which distinguishes the localities which produce eggs from those which are devoted to silk-reeling. Let us suppose that for an export of 1,250,000 *cartons* (at 350 grammes the *carton*) 437,500 kilo. of cocoons have been used. If these cocoons had been reeled they would have given 29,166 kilo. of silk, and this silk at 70 francs the kilo. would represent 2,041,650 francs, whilst the 1,250,000 *cartons* sold at Yokohama at 15 francs per *carton* would produce 18,750,000 francs. It will easily be understood from this why the trade in silk-worms' eggs has increased so rapidly in Japan, and that where the conditions are favourable a preference is given to it. Fortunately for the silk industry, the demand for eggs is limited, and confined to certain countries. But it is not to be wondered at that, under these circumstances, those who can pursue the trade in eggs should not give themselves the trouble of reeling the cocoons.

We think we may therefore confidently state that the trade in eggs has taken from the silk reeling a large number of hands, has prevented the growth of mulberry plantations, and thus hindered the development of the production of silk. Present prices compared with those formerly reeling. Would certainly lead to the conjecture that we should now be exporting at least 21,000 bales a year which would give an excess of 6,000 bales and yield 21,000,000 of francs at 70 fr. the kilo. It follows from the foregoing that a more important development of the production of silk would have been preferable for the welfare of the country, to the growth of the trade in silk worms' eggs, although the latter trade is more advantageous for the individual. Considered from the same point of view, the production of raw silk offers besides the advantage of the greater division of labour and a very varied trade.

We must now pass to the question of the deterioration of Japan silk, of which we have heard much of late years, and which still demands attention. This deterioration was the result of the rapid rise of prices here and a great deal of ignorance in the silk inspectors of early days. When men would give nearly as good a price for bad as for good silk, and every thing they bought paid a large profit, there was as much eagerness to buy as there was to sell, and of course the relaxation of all care on the part of buyers produced its inevitable effect upon sellers. The silk became more and more mixed, and ultimately, worse and worse reeled. It would be absurd to blame the Japanese for this, for the roots of the evil lie in human nature itself, and similar causes put into operation in any part of the world would produce similar effects. Take sermons, for instance, —we speak generally, of course. They are never criticised except in a general, and generally ignorant, manner. And what is the consequence? We leave the reply to all who with a mechanical regularity, and in a mood between patience and despair, have gone through a steady domestic course of church attendance under the ministrations of gentlemen under thirty-five years of age. The whole of M. de Bavier's chapter on this subject is well worth reading, and though we are a little startled at the story of the night silk inspection by the light of a lamp, it is certain that there was a carelessness little short of magnificent in the manner in which much of the silk was sent forward from Japan to Europe in the early days of the trade.

We now approach what seems to us the most important section of this part of M. de Bavier's work, viz, the part played by the silk worms' egg trade in the deterioration of Japan silk.

In writing some time ago on this subject we expressed our opinion that some regulation of the trade by the Government, far from being unnecessary, was almost demanded by the nature of the trade, which else showed a tendency to sacrifice the future too much to the present. A correspondent shortly afterwards pointed out that the increase in the production of silk worms' eggs was not, as was supposed, a question of alternatives between more trade in eggs and a deterioration of the breed of worms threatening the future of that trade, but between more trade and a decrease of the silk production. He argued, apparently soundly, that the reproductive powers of the insect could not be overworked, that it fulfilled its destiny and died, and that any fear in regard to the eggs thus produced was manifestly groundless. An increase in the production of silk worms' eggs would, he said, of course, decrease the production of silk, but it would leave the race of worms wholly unaffected. And, on his data, he certainly was right. But our correspondent overlooked the very important fact

that the custom of the Japanese, and, we presume, of all egg producers, is to choose the finest cocoons for the production of seed. But if this production is stimulated by unusual demand, a lower order of moth is chosen, many of which are feeble or even diseased, and this, of course, results in the production of a seed of lower quality. The male moths are used only once under ordinary circumstances, but when large quantities of eggs are required they are not thus restricted. All this tends to lower the general average value of the seed. "The first cartons sent to Europe produced 40 to 50 kilo. of cocoons per carton, whilst a yield of 20 kilo. is now considered quite satisfactory"—says Mr. Bavier. He proceeds thus:—

With the deterioration of the cocoons, the nature of the silk (the italics are his) lost much of its original goodness. Whether the Japanese sold the greater part of their best eggs, induced to do so by the high prices offered by Europeans, or whether the profits attaching to this branch of industry induced the producers to push the powers of the race to exhaustion, it is impossible to ignore the lamentable effect produced by this trade upon Japan silk, the history of which contains the counts of the indictment brought against it.

M. de Bavier adduces several authorities to substantiate his position, only one of which we will quote, but as it is from the works of M. Pasteur, it is better than fifty authorities of inferior weight. M. Pasteur writes as follows:—

It is thus that unfortunately and probably we shall witness within the course of a few years the progressive infection of a large silk producing country under the influence of an unduly stimulated trade in silk worms' eggs. Japan, the only country where at present good seed can be obtained, still resists the bad influence of the great stimulus which has been given to its trade in eggs (*ces vastes granages industriels*). This only dates on a great scale from the years 1867 to 1868; besides, our merchants cannot penetrate into the interior of the country, where it is possible that the natives have the good sense to continue their old customs of breeding and seed-producing (*education et grainage*).

This position cannot last long, and for those who have followed, as I have done, since the year 1865 the development of the corpuscular disease in the cartons from Japan, it must be certain that this country will, sooner or later, end by sending us very bad seed and by losing its own prosperity.

Now, we have done our duty when we have given this most important extract, and added that the author of it is, beyond all dispute, the first living authority upon the subject. Whether the Japanese Government has fully considered this question in such a light as is thrown upon it by this extract, we know not; but the extract itself deserves every attention. We are so much averse to Government interference with trade that, on general grounds, we have deprecated and argued against it even in regard to this very industry. But no one will charge us with inconsistency in desiring that the Japanese should reconsider the whole question in the light of this passage, which we have drawn into prominent attention on the immovable ground that no commerce between different countries is justifiable which enriches one at the expense of another. The advent of foreigners to Japan has been no unmixed boon to it. It was inevitable, it had to be faced, and the conditions on which the mutual intercourse takes place is yet far from satisfactory either to the Japanese or ourselves, partly from faults on one side, partly from faults on the other, and partly from the inherent constitution of human affairs. But let us at least endeavour to make it of the utmost possible advantage to both sides. The silk trade of this country is one of its richest endowments, and we cannot see this inheritance endangered without calling attention to the side from which the danger threatens to arise.

In conclusion, we commend M. de Bavier's book to all who take an interest in the subject of which it treats. It does not contain much that is new, but it brings a good deal of valuable matter, previously known, into a compendious form, and constitutes a monograph at once useful and valuable on the silk trade of Japan.

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR HIOGO AND OSAKA FOR 1873.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Hiogo, June 30th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward to you the following Returns of our local trade, shipping, &c., for the year ending 31st December, 1873; viz:—

- 1.—Imports.
- 2.—Exports.
- 3.—Shipping return, Hiogo.
- 4.—Shipping return, Osaka.
- 5.—Duties collected at Hiogo and Osaka.
- 6.—Foreign Residents at Hiogo and Osaka.

These tables were principally compiled from somewhat confused returns of the local Custom House, which I finally had to procure from Yokohama.

I cannot help observing that the employment of foreigners has certainly not hitherto improved the working of that department, and that the reasonable assistance which may be expected from it, has, if anything, diminished.

IMPORTS.

Cotton Yarn.—Three kinds are brought to this market; No. 1 (mule twist) the finer kinds, or No. 38 to 42; and Nos. 2 and 3 (coarser kinds) respectively Nos. 28 to 32, and 16 to 24. There was hardly any demand for No. 1, but owing to a scarcity of No. 3 throughout the year, the sales of No. 2, imported in large quantities, improved very considerably.

Early in the year \$115 were paid for a 3 piculs bale of No. 3, which in April and May increased to \$123; during the summer the price fell to the original one, but an improvement again took place during the month of October.

As much as \$135 was obtained for No. 2, but towards the end of the year the price declined to \$124.

The greatest sales took place in April (498 bales), and the smallest in September (130 bales.)

Shirtings.—Though prices were not high, a larger business was transacted in this article than in former years. From \$2.12 to \$2.32 was paid for unbleached 7 lbs., and \$2.25 may be said to have been the average price.

8½ to 8½ lbs. averaged \$2.61, the ruling price of \$2.50 having increased to \$2.80 in December last. 9 lbs. were sold in small quantities at \$2.80 to \$2.95.

Orleans (black) never fell under \$6.50 per piece, \$8.50 being the highest price paid during the last months of the year.

Velvet (black) realized \$14 per piece in January, gradually decreased to \$9 in March, and showed no subsequent improvement; notwithstanding this, considerable sales were effected, the largest (4,110 pieces) in November, and the smallest (300 pieces) in July.

Camlets, of which the largest sales (750 pieces) took place in May, show no great difference on prices of previous years, viz:—

Scarlet	\$17.00 to \$18.50
Black	14.00 to 16.00 and
Assorted Colours	15.00 to 17.00

Mousselines de laine obtained indifferent prices throughout the year.

Plain.....30-31 inches in 1872 averaged 22 cents per yard.	
"44-45 " " 32 "	
Figured...30-31 " " 35 "	
Plain.....30-31 " 1873 18 "	
"44-45 " " 23 "	
Figured...30-31 " " 29 "	

Thibets.—Demand gradually increased, giving an average price of 26 cents per yard; \$8 to \$10 per piece for red, and \$6 to \$9 for other colors.

Cloth.—Pilot, president and sealskin, the last imported for the first time.

Black from \$2 per yard in January fell to \$1.25 during the summer. Average price \$1.53 in 1873 or 25 cents less than the previous year. Sales in December amounted to 2,053 pieces.

Taffachelass.—Business improved in May. In June prices varied from \$3.15 to \$3.80 owing to small supplies and increasing demand. No sales in July and August, but again considerable business during the following

months, 9,400 pieces having been disposed of during December. In 1873 the average prices were \$3.24 and \$2.71 and in 1872, \$3.14 and \$2.51.

Iron varied from \$4.25 to \$5 per picul. Nail-rod from \$3, increased to \$5 per picul towards the end of the year.

Hoop Iron fell from \$5.75 to \$4.75.

Lead, Tinplates and Zinc shew a better average, viz:—in 1873 \$6.75, \$9.79 and \$8.46, in 1872 \$5.75 \$7.29 and \$8.

Sugar, although produced in Satsuma, is largely imported, principally from the South of China and Formosa. The most expensive (white), said to come from Canton, obtains an average per picul of \$8.31 for 1st quality and \$7.39 for 2nd quality. Inferior kinds from Formosa and the north of Canton vary from \$3.57 to \$3.87 per picul.

During May, June and July 18, 198 piculs were imported.

Raw Cotton; transactions increased considerably, owing to partial failure of native crop, and \$16.09 per picul was the average price obtained.

Petroleum was imported to such an extent to meet the increasing demand, that the ruling price of \$5 to \$6 for 2 tins, each containing 5 gallons, at the beginning of the year soon fell to \$3.25, thus causing heavy losses to speculators.

EXPORTS.

Tea.—The following comparative table shows the prices which have ruled during the last two years:—

	In 1873.	In 1872.
Ordinary best quality	per picul \$24.60	\$23.70
Middling 2nd "	" 29.14	27.90
Middling best "	" 33.89	34.05
Fine 2nd "	" 39.06	38.00
Fine best "	" 45.00	46.75
Picked 2nd "	" 50.94	52.83
Picked best "	" 56.25	57.14

Business in old season teas was dull and ceased at the beginning of April, owing to high prices.

The first shipments of the new and excellent crop commenced about the middle of May, notwithstanding exorbitant prices; but these eventually became more reasonable, experiencing however another rise in November, during which month 5,500 piculs were exported.

A rumour reached us in December last to the effect that the American duty on tea (which from 25 cents was reduced to 15 cents per pound, and ceased in 1873) was again to be levied from the 31st of January, 1874, and this actually caused higher prices to be paid in Japan, which unfortunately resulted in heavy losses to exporters.

Silk and Silkworm-egg business was dull throughout the year.

Copper.—Formerly obtainable at \$13,—and less per picul, rose to an average price of \$19.34 during last year; this greatly discouraged purchases, but nevertheless some 6,000 piculs were shipped during February, March and May.

Bronze.—Consisting of old temple bells, guns, idols &c., became an important article of export during the early part of the year; this has however gradually decreased and will naturally soon cease. It averaged \$16.15 per picul.

Tobacco.—Business improved during last year, \$5.27 per picul being the average price, or 65 cents less than the average for 1872.

Wax.—(Vegetable) was \$4, cheaper per picul than in 1872, but owing to home prices no large business could be done. Exports amounted to 1,000 piculs in February and March, but they ceased in June.

Camphor.—Averaged \$15.70 per picul, thus giving an increase of 20 cents per picul in 1873, and purchases do not compare favourably with those of the previous year.

Rice and Wheat.—Of which Government hitherto monopolised the export, were at last thrown open to private speculation during the latter half of the year.

The first shipments at \$1.60 per picul must have left a hand some profit; not so, however, subsequent purchases at \$2.62.

Shipping.—The Foreign shipping for both ports gives a total of 540 ships of 573,169 tons entered and cleared during 1873, which shews a decrease of 39 ships of 28,276

tons upon the previous year. This is principally explained by the fact of the very large quantity of rice which was exported in 1872 by the Government, who employed foreign steamers for that purpose. Another cause is that ships intended for Yokohama and Hiogo often remain at the former port, forwarding their cargo for this place in the large American mail steamers, and also receiving from this port through the medium part of their outward cargo.

This regular line of American steamers from Yokohama to Shanghai, plying weekly both ways, also accounts for the apparent excess of foreign or British shipping to this port, as shewn in the tabular forms.

The ferry-steamers still keep up an active communication between Hiogo and Osaka, and they will be able to continue it successfully if the Railway Department does not reduce its present high fares, which is 40 *sen* for 3rd class passengers, or double the average rate payable by those steamboats.

Regular communication has now also been established between Osaka-Hiogo and Yokohama-Tokio, as well as some ports in the Inland Sea, by native owned steamers with foreign captains and engineers. These vessels are gradually monopolizing the coasting trade.

NOTES ON SUBJECTS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

Hiogo. A good building for the Municipal hall and offices, with police station, small prison, and permanent sheds for fire-engines and water carts have been erected in a central part of the foreign settlement.

As no assistance could be obtained from the Governor to secure for the settlement a supply of pure water from the waterfall, without our consenting that this should become an unreasonable speculation of some natives, it was decided that five large covered wells should be sunk in the most convenient parts of the settlement. These have been satisfactorily completed, and each of them can freely supply two powerful fire-engines working simultaneously.

Trees and grass have greatly improved the appearance of our bund, and our small but fine park is now kept in perfect order.

The public garden would also have been laid out long ago, had it not been for the characteristic and patient perseverance with which Japanese study and endeavour to insist upon all the possible means which they think will eventually free them from carrying into effect obligations originally contracted.

But this is not to be wondered at, if we consider that the convention respecting the right of foreigners to lease land, within certain limits at this port, like natives, has for years past successfully been treated as a dead letter by the Japanese Government.

The Municipal Council has contracted for the lighting of the settlement with gas from the works of an English Company, which are being rapidly erected.

Some fine dwelling houses and godowns were erected last year, and building still continues on the foreign settlement.

The rapid increase of the native town is astonishing. Fairly drained and wide streets, at right angles, now divide the Kobe part of the town into large blocks, where many houses in foreign style are erected.

On the hill slopes behind the town and settlement comparatively good roads have also been made on a cheap principle, which will consequently prove expensive owing to constant repairs. But this appears to be the rule for Government work in Japan, the exception being those for which foreign skill and advice have been accepted.

A patent slip for ships up to one thousand tons is being constructed, under the superintendence of a French Engineer, for the Government, quite adjacent to this foundry on the west side of the Kobe bay, which has for some time been in good working order.

CURRENCY, Etc.

The Mint at Osaka is in every department complete with the latest appliances, and in splendid working order, including the manufacture of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, coke and gas for the requirements of that establishment.

Number and value of coins struck from 1st of January to 31st of December, 1873:—

Denomination.	No. of Pieces.	Value in Dollars.
Gold	5,527,600	19,385,043
Silver	20,376,955	3,759,325
Copper	1,305,340	13,053
Total		\$23,157,421

The total amount of gold and silver bullion imported into the Mint during the past year was :—

Gold	914,272.85 ounces.
And Silver.....	3,618,168.71 „

The striking of copper coins only regularly commenced during last December, although a great deal of the work had been previously done by preparing the copper for coinage.

The building for the copper coinage was completed a few months ago, and is attached to the Mint. It is 440 feet long, of red and white bricks with stone basement, altogether very substantial and ornamental. The machinery is capable of striking some 140,000,000 copper pieces annually.

The following analysis of Japanese copper made by Mr. W. Gowland, F.C.S., &c., Chemist and Metallurgist to the Mint, may prove of interest.

The samples of Japanese copper which have been examined have all been remarkably free from antimony, and generally also from injurious quantities of arsenic. One sample, however, contained 159 per cent. of the latter metal, an amount which would render such copper totally unfit for the manufacture of brass and several other alloys in which great toughness combined with tenacity might be required.

Another sample contained 1.384 per cent. of lead.

Certain kinds of very crude Japanese copper, usually seen in more or less circular cakes resembling in form the "rosette" copper of Europe, are sometimes exceedingly impure, in some cases containing so much iron that a modification of the ordinary method of refining would be required for their treatment.

I may state that so far as I have at present examined Japanese copper I have found it to be generally of such a character that when properly refined in a suitable furnace, it can be used with advantage in most cases where a pure copper is required.

Some caution however is necessary, the interfering metals met with occasionally rendering it imperative that careful analysis should be made as often as possible.

As some of the coins have undergone a trifling alteration in diameter, greatly improving their appearance, and the subsidiary silver coins have also been slightly increased in weight, it will not be amiss to note their present description. I therefore append the following table:—

Diameter.	Standard Foreign.	Diameter in English inches.	Weight Troy grains.
GOLD COINS.			
20 yens.....	$\frac{200}{1000}$	1.37	514.41
10 „	„	1.13	257.20
5 „	„	0.87	128.60
2 „	„	0.69	51.44
1 „	„	0.50	25.72
SILVER COINS.			
1 Yen	$\frac{1000}{1000}$	1.50	416.00
50 Sen	$\frac{500}{1000}$	1.22	208.00
20 „	„	0.90	83.20
10 „	„	0.72	41.60
5 „	„	0.56	20.80

The design on these coins has also been changed so as to indicate the value in large Japanese characters on the reverse, while on the obverse side the value has been introduced in Roman letters, which is a great convenience to foreigners, and will go far to encourage their being made current in the China ports, and in our neighbouring colonies, where the want of subsidiary silver currency is greatly felt.

Denomination.	Alloy.	Diameter English inches.	Weight Troy grains.
Copper Coins.			
2 sen.	98 parts Copper.	1.25	220.
1 „	1 „ Tin.	1.10	110.
$\frac{1}{2}$ „	1 „ Zinc.	0.87	55.
$\frac{1}{4}$ riū.		0.62	14.

Roman letters and numbers are also indicated on the obverse of the copper coins.

The old gold coins, such as the "Obang," "Kobang," "Nibu" and "Nishiu" are no longer in circulation; this is also the case with the silver "bu" and "ishiu."

The old copper coins, however, are still in circulation, and do not bear any fixed value as compared with the gold and silver yen; these being used at the rate of the day, and will continue so until gradually replaced by the new denomination.

These old coins respectively represent 12, 16, 24 and 100 iron cash. The latter, the Tohiyaku, first coined between 1830 and 1843, and subsequently called *tempo*, under which it is still known to foreigners, varies very considerably in fineness and weight. It contains from 77 to 85 per cent of copper, and the alloy consists of tin and lead, some coins containing from 8 to 12 per cent of the latter metal; their weight varying from 265.50 to 371.90 grains troy.

On the 31st of December last one yen was equal to 124 *tempos*, but the rate varies from 96 to 130.

The new "scale dollar" is in circulation among foreigners, who keep their books and their accounts with the local branches of the "Hongkong and Shanghai" and "Oriental" Banks, in this denomination of coin.

Price-currents of all Imports and Exports are also drawn up in this coin, and in transactions with the natives both the yen and the dollar are used.

The new pure Mexican dollar is equal to 1.0043 silver yen; but the dollar usually current here can be taken as the equivalent of a silver yen.

Gold yen, as compared with Mexican dollars, were during last year at a discount varying from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Silver yen, the coining of which was not continued during 1873, were also at a discount of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The gold and silver yen are not yet generally in circulation among the Japanese, paper money called "Kinsatsu" and "Yen-satsu" being the circulating medium.

Both sorts are issued by Government and are not exchangeable either in gold or silver at the Treasury, or at the authorized native banks. They bear neither date nor signature, and the amount in circulation is not accurately known.

Although this paper money does not possess the advantages which in Europe would place it on an equal footing with gold and silver, the Japanese take it at par with yen, and when required for remittances to the interior, it is sometimes even at a small premium.

When Kinsatsu was first issued in 1868 it was at a discount, and at one time as low as 50 per cent; the Government have, however, since succeeded in making it circulate at par.

The "Kinsatsu" printed on Japanese paper are of the following denominations:—

10, 5 and 1 "rio" (or yen), "nibu," "ichibu," "nishiu" and "ishiu," respectively worth 50, 25, $12\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{4}$ sen of a yen.

The "Yen-satsu," with Japanese and Roman characters, on Foreign paper, consist of:—1000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 25, 10, 5, 2 and 1 yen,—50, 20 and 10 sen.

The Japanese bank ("Mitsui") circulates notes of 10, 5 and 1 yen, which on presentation are payable at the office in gold yen.

The local trade is much indebted to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for their issue of 100, 50, 10 and 5 Mexican dollar notes payable to bearer. A stop has thus been put to the needless loss of time and labour entailed by the inspection of Mexican dollars, and the influence, often used in a most arbitrary manner, of the Chinese shroffs, has thus been very considerably diminished.

Telegraphic Communication.—This was opened with Nagasaki during last year, this port having already been in communication with Yokohama since 1872. Nagasaki is the end station of the "Great Northern Telegraph Company" which connects with the European telegraph net. The Japanese telegraphs under the control of native officials, assisted by foreigners, are the property of the Government. The line north of Hiogo runs through Osaka, Kyoto, Hikone, Nagoya, Toyohashi, Shizuoka,

Numazu and Yokohama to Tokio (Yedo). The southern line runs north of the Inland Sea to Shimonoseki, thence across the straits to Kokura on the Kiushiu island, and ultimately through Fukuoka and Saga to Nagasaki.

Telegraphy in Japan has not yet answered the expectations entertained, as the Japanese officials do not show any great aptitude for this duty, and the communication between Nagasaki and Yokohama is continually interrupted.

Telegrams to Europe must be addressed to some persons in Nagasaki for transmission by the "Great Northern," as the Japanese Telegraph Department does not undertake this duty.

Japanese Postal Department.—The Japanese Government have established regular postal communication with the principal places throughout the country, and the transport duties are performed by pedestrian couriers. It takes them four days from this to Yokohama, and five to Nagasaki; to these ports mails are however often forwarded in Japanese owned steamers. A uniform rate of postage throughout the country has been recently adopted, being 2 *sen* per weight of two Japanese *momme*.

Postage stamps on European principles have also been adopted, and consist of 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 *sen* and 1 *yen* in value.

Railways.—Notwithstanding the rapidly increasing requirement felt for means of good land communication with Osaka and the interior, the authorities could never be induced to make a carriage road or in any way improve the miserable pathway existing between these two important places; all hope of ultimately inducing the authorities to do something under this head was entirely, and I think for ever, removed by the slow construction of a railway which at last was completed and opened to the public on the 11th of May last.

This small section of 20 miles has six stations, viz:—Kobe, Sannomiya, Sumiyoshi, Nishinomiya, Kansaki and Osaka. The trip is performed in a little over an hour; from 7 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. or every hour and a half; trains from each terminus start simultaneously, and cross each other on a double line half way.

The Hiogo terminus, or Kawasaki station, is situated on the west side of the harbour, and has three lines of rail and a platform about 300 feet in length. It is also provided with a pier 450 feet long and 40 broad, where sea-going ships of 20 feet draught can load and discharge cargo.

Sannomiya is a small station behind the Foreign settlement at this port.

The brick-built station at Osaka is said to be the finest as yet erected in Japan; this also connects by rail with the Japanese Mint and the river bank opposite the foreign settlement, which latter, if worked, will prove a great convenience, as the principal station is very far from the present business part of the town.

The incline nowhere exceeds one in a hundred throughout the line, which crosses all rivers and streams at right angles. This has caused the construction of three tunnels running under their beds, many bridges and a large number of culverts to facilitate the artificial irrigation which is indispensable for the agriculture of this part of the country. The combined length of these tunnels is 750 feet, and the number of bridges and culverts amount to 208, besides a large bridge 1190 feet long over the Mukogawa.

The continuation of this line to Kyoto has been commenced; it is said that it will be extended round the Biwa lake to Tsuruga on the West Coast, which will greatly add to the commercial importance of Hiogo and Osaka.

Anchorage.—The bays of Kobe and Hiogo,—the former set apart for foreign shipping, the latter used exclusively for Japanese owned vessels—are separated by a narrow land spit formed by the silting up of the heavy granite sand discharged by the "Minatogawa" at its entrance. Both bays are situated on the N. W. side of the Osaka gulf.

The superficial area of the bay of Kobe is about 4 square miles; it is open on the S. E. side, the greatest depth being $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms, which for a distance of about 200 yards gradually lessens towards the beach.

The entrance to this anchorage is safe and easy, and

having a mud bottom it is also considered excellent. A stone wall, extending over two thirds of the length of the bay, has been built in front of that part of the native town called Kobe and the Foreign settlement. There are two cambers in the bay for boats and small river steamers, and in front of these Custom-house buildings have been erected.

The bay of Hiogo is in many respects similar to that of Kobe, but if anything it is less exposed to the prevailing westerly winds; southerly, and south-easterly gales, when very strong, sometimes prevent communication with the shipping in these harbours.

The superficial measurement of the Isumi sea, known to Foreigners as the Gulf of Osaka, is about 418 square miles. The depth of the Isumi straits is about 28 fathoms, and the average in other parts of the gulf may fairly be said to be 10 fathoms.

At Kobe high water is an hour later than in the straits. The difference between high and low water is seldom more than six feet and usually less than four. As the Kobe and Hiogo bays are surrounded by high land, the tides are very irregular, and principally depend on the prevailing winds.

Every day—Sunday and holidays excepted—a gun placed near the Western Custom-house is fired at noon, giving the mean time.

Ships' provisions are not more expensive than in the other open ports:—

Beef 10 cents per pound.
Bread 9 Do.

Water one dollar per ton.

Pilots are not appointed by the Government, and they have agreed to charge according to the following scale which is not unreasonable:—

Kii channel to Kobe \$3 per foot.
do. Osaka 4 do.
Kobe to Osaka 1 do.
Osaka or Kobe (Hiogo) to Nagasaki
through Inland sea 6 do.
Osaka or Kobe to Yokohama 6 do.

But \$74 to \$75 from this to Yokohama or Nagasaki are often accepted for vessels in ballast or of very light draught.

In conclusion I beg to draw your attention to return 6 shewing a steady increase of Foreign residents both here and at Osaka.

I add some notes received from Mr. Vice Consul Annesley on subjects specially referring to Osaka where he resides.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) ABEL A. J. GOWER.

Extracts.

A JAPANESE ON THE FORMOSAN QUESTION.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—During a somewhat protracted residence here, I have been a reader of your and other foreign journals published in China, and also of the papers published in the Chinese language. In all these I have discovered evidence of misapprehension, which may perhaps form a source of mischief, as regards the relations subsisting between my country and China. I beg therefore you will allow me to make a few remarks on the Formosan question in your issue of to-morrow morning.

The Formosan savages have repeatedly inflicted injuries on my countrymen which have lately been alluded to in your paper. For example, they slaughtered fifty-four Japanese belonging to the district of Yoyeyama, and in 1871 four shipwrecked men belonging to the district of Bitchu were robbed and maltreated and their junk rifled of everything. Claims for their wrongs have never been investigated by the Chinese Government, although years have elapsed since the occurrence complained of, which proves that the savages were far beyond Chinese influence, and over whom their authority did not extend.

I would add, moreover, that Prince-li Yamen discussed this matter

last year at Peking with Mr. Soyeshima, and made not the slightest objections to the punishment of the savages by the Japanese Government, leaving them entirely at the disposal of Japan.

Our Government regarded this answer to their remonstrance as decisive, and accordingly decided on the Formosan expedition, which we hold is justified on two grounds—first, the disclaimer of responsibility on the part of the Chinese Government for the conduct of the savages; and, second, their neglect of inflicting punishment. I have no doubt, therefore, that International Law admits that, when a Government demands the punishment of those who have offended its people, and punishment is not inflicted, an expedition may be rightfully fitted out to obtain redress on the spot where the offence was committed.

Besides, the Japanese in this case having first obtained the assent of the Chinese Government to their taking the matter in hand themselves, no further communication was necessary.

Mr. Yanagiwara, the Japanese ambassador to China, is now at Shanghai, and I believe that he is negotiating on the matter with Mr. Pau, a special commissioner from His Majesty the Emperor of China, (together with the Tautai), to place the question on a friendly footing, which seems quite feasible, seeing that Prince Kung and the other Tsung-li Yamen authorities will not deny their former acquiescence.

Very truly yours,
MAKOTO.

Shanghai, 2nd July, 1874.

A CHINESE REPLY TO "MAKOTO" ON THE FORMOSAN QUESTION.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—I have read a letter in your paper of yesterday from the Japanese gentleman named Makoto, and beg your permission to make a few remarks, especially with reference to the paragraph that runs immediately after "the Formosan savages have repeatedly inflicted injuries on my countrymen, and their junk rifled of every thing." He ought to have said claims for these wrongs have never been made to the Chinese Government, although years have elapsed since the occurrences complained of took place, which proves that the Japanese Government failed in courtesy to the Chinese Government to whom they are in duty bound obliged to communicate, not verbally, but in a formal manner, as is usual in matters of such importance. I would add, moreover, that Mr. Soyeshima, after exchanging ratifications of the Treaty with China, made a verbal remark just before taking his departure from the Tsung-li Yamen, about the punishment of the Formosan savages, in an off-hand way, and any reply thereby elicited must also be nothing but an off-hand manner. I defy Mr. Makoto to prove what he so emphatically declared, "that the Chinese Government leave them (the savages) entirely at the disposal of Japan;" and until this proof be forthcoming, the Formosan expedition can be regarded in no other light than a piratical expedition.

Our Government regards this aggression on the part of the Japanese as a serious breach of Treaty stipulations, and accordingly decided to send a Minister of high standing to Formosa, to rid the island of the Japanese by one of these two ways: First, to act in a persuasive style; and should this fail, then try the coercive; and I hope the Japanese will, ere this, find out their mistake, and evacuate the island with very little delay.

I am, Sir,
Yours ever truly,
W. K. T.

Shanghai, 5th July, 1874.

Law Report.

H. B. M. PROVINCIAL COURT.

Before C. W. GOODWIN, Esq., Assistant Judge.

Tuesday, July 14th, 1874.

WALSH, HALL & Co., Plaintiffs, v. PITMAN & Co., Defendants.

PITMAN & Co., Plaintiffs, v. WALSH, HALL & Co., Defendants.

The first of these actions is for the non-performance of a contract to purchase a lot of army-blankets.

The Plaintiffs by their agents Messrs. Fletcher & Co. offered a lot of blankets for sale in the earlier part of the year 1873, and musters of these were furnished to the Defendant. Nothing came of this; but on 10th January 1874 the Defendant wrote to Messrs. Fletcher thus:—"Please let us have another muster of the common blankets 'by bearer and we will endeavour to make you another offer.'" In consequence of this two musters, varying somewhat in quality and colour, were sent. On the 16th February the Defendant wrote to Messrs. Fletcher:—"We will take the 13,000 pairs of blankets as 'per muster at 17½ cents per lb. if we can have delivery within 30 'days from date.'" This was replied to 17th February after some verbal negotiations in the following terms:—"We beg to say that 'there are 13,000 blankets (not pairs) as per muster which we agree 'to hold to your order for 30 days from date or sooner delivery if 'required. It is understood that the price for the above is to be '70 cents each.'" The Defendant accepted this offer by letter dated 21st February.

The time for taking delivery had nearly elapsed when the Defendant discovered that one of the samples sent in the early part of 1873, and which had been transferred to other hands, was a rotten one. Assuming the bulk to be in the same condition, the Defendant sent a friend, Mr. Howell, to Walsh, Hall & Co. to represent the fact, but from the examination of a sample bale which was at hand it did not appear that any other blankets were rotten. The Defendant next saw Mr. Mouat, the Plaintiff's clerk who conducted the transaction and took with him, as I understand, the rotten blanket and one of those which he had received in January 1874. It appears that a controversy arose as to which was the muster by which the bulk was to be judged. The Defendant contended that one particular good sample which he produced should be taken, while Mr. Mouat maintained that both must be taken together, the best and the worst, remarking that the lot was a mixed one. Mr. Mouat seems to have under the impression at that time that the two samples produced by defendant were the two sent on January 10th.

Subsequently the day of delivery passed and the plaintiffs wrote requesting that delivery might be taken. To this defendant replied saying:—"We contracted to purchase blankets as per the muster 'referred to in our letter of 16th February, but we cannot take delivery of a mixed lot not being according to such muster."

Now the muster referred to in this letter must mean (if it be not intentionally ambiguous) the two blankets sent on the 10th January 1874. But what proof was there then or is there now that the bulk was not according to or even better than this muster? There is nothing absurd in a lot of articles which vary more or less in quality, a mixed lot, being tested by a plurality of specimens some better some worse; and the evidence which has been brought on the part of the plaintiffs shows that in fact the bulk as far as examined is, if anything, superior to the two samples of January 10th.

The real question appears to me to be: Did the defendant ever seriously seek an opportunity of inspecting the bulk with a view of comparing it with his two last musters and was he denied such opportunity? And here there is a certain discrepancy in the evidence, the defendant swearing that Mr. Mouat refused to open a bale unless defendant acceded to the principal of judging by the two specimens he then produced viz., one of the January 10th 1874 and the rotten one of 1873. Mr. Mouat, on the contrary, swears distinctly that he never refused permission to the defendant to inspect the bulk, and I think this is the more probable statement. The procedure of the defendant was to say the least precipitate, and I cannot for a moment believe that it was out of his power to have inspected the goods previous to the day of delivery, had he been so minded.

I do not accede to the view that any of the numerous samples which it is sworn by two witness the defendant received during 1873, (although he swears that he never had more than five samples altogether), might properly be taken as musters of the lot, by which he ought to be bound. These musters might well have got rotten or deteriorated, and besides the correspondence of 1874 is sufficiently isolated and complete by itself to fix the muster upon which the defendant bought to be the two blankets furnished January 10th 1874. The evidence adduced as to the musters sent in 1873 only goes to show that the defendant had had abundant opportunity to

become acquainted with the nature of the blankets, and there is no pretence for saying that the least concealment was practised by the plaintiffs or their agents.

I come to the conclusion that the defendant violated the contract by refusing to take delivery without any reasonable excuse. The cross-action which he brings against the plaintiffs falls to the ground.

Seeing the very exceptional character of the market in Japan for blankets and the extraordinary fluctuations which take place, and taking the most liberal view of the value of the blankets in this case, I assess the damages which the plaintiffs have sustained at \$4000 (four thousand dollars).

The costs of both causes will fall upon the defendant.

CURTIS v. MANSFIELD.

The plaintiff, the late Proprietor of the International Hotel, claims \$71 for board and lodging furnished to the plaintiff.

Judgment was given for \$70 and costs.

CURTIS v. FARMAN.

A claim for \$39.50 for board and lodging. The defendant admitted the claim, but being without funds and without employment found himself unable to discharge it.

His Honour ordered the debt to be paid within six weeks.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

Destination.	Name.	Agents.	Despatch.
Kobe and Osaka...	Kiangse	Edward Fischer & Co.	18 instant
Hongkong	Bombay	P. & O. Co.	22 instant
Hakodate	New York	P. M. S. S. Co.	23 instant
New York &c.	Pleiades	Mourilyan, Heimann & Co	22 instant
New York	Benefactor	"	1 August
New York &c.	Bengal	Augustine Heard & Co.	Q. D.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

July 14 *Washi*, British steamer, Hesscroff, 221, from Niigata and Hakodate, July 6th, General, to Hudson, Malcolm & Co.

July 14, *Oregonian*, American steamer, Harris, 1,914, from Hakodate, July 11th, General, to P. M. S. S. Co.

July 14, *Ping On*, British steamer, Mooney, 476, from Hiogo, July 12th, General, to E. Fischer & Co.

July 15, *New York*, American steamer, Furber, 2,119, from Shanghai, July 7th, General, to P. M. S. S. Co.

July 18, *Colorado*, American steamer, Morse, 3,728, from Hongkong, July 11th, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.

July 18, *Vancouver*, British steamer, Shaw, 2,200, from San Francisco, June 25th, General, to Hudson, Malcolm & Co.

DEPARTURES.

July 11, *Hartford*, U. S. corvette, Captain De Kraft, 2,200 tons, for Kobe.

July 11, *Sylvia*, H. M. gun-boat, Captain St. John, 600 tons, for East Coast, Hakodate.

July 11, *Ringdove*, H. B. M. gun-boat Captain Singleton, 464 tons, for Kobe.

July 12, *Bengal*, British steamer, Douglas, 1,250, for Yokoska.

July 12, *John McKean*, British steamer, Taylor, 198, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by Hudson, Malcolm & Co.

July 12, *Courier*, Russian steamer, Lemascheffsky, 495, for Kamschtscha, General, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

July 14, *Talee*, German barque, Hoffman, 335, for Newchwang, Ballast, despatched by Captain.

July 14, *Hamburg*, German barque, Kroge, 300, for Shanghai, Coal, despatched by Walsh, Hall & Co.

July 14, *Marianne*, French barque, Bazelaire, 468, for Oregon, Ballast, despatched by Captain.

July 15, *Tanais*, French steamer, Reynier, 1,000, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by M. M. Co.

July 16, *Costa Rica*, American steamer, Connor, 1,917 for Shanghai and Ports, General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per British steamer *Washi*, from Hakodate, &c.:—Four Japanese. Per American steamer *Oregonian*, from Hakodate:—Messrs. Morris and servant, Ishima, Dinsui, Foster, and 27 in the steerage.

Per American steamer *New York*, from Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. Krehn, Messrs. J. Sloman, G. H. Pole, W. Morley, Kaganaski, A. Schueffer, A. Machenham, E. C. Kirby, Dr. Younker, John Robertson, G. M. Ogilvie, W. C. Worthel, Capt. Fitz George, J. H. Fisher, and 23 in the steerage. For San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. Eckard, and Mr. C. H. Rockwell.

Per French steamer *Tanais*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. Darfeuille, and Pamel.

Per American steamer *Costa Rica*, for Shanghai:—Mrs. H. Cook, J. Shadgett, A. E. Olaroffsky, Miss Kenfield, 5 Japanese, and 72 in the steerage.

Per British steamer *Vancouver*, from San Francisco:—Messrs. Littledale, Truebb, Brewer, Mitchell, Keimserk, Mr. and Mrs. Bremner. For Hongkong:—87 in the steerage.

Per American steamer *Colorado*, from Hongkong:—Staff Commander Hewlett, H.N., Lieut. P. K. Smythes, Miss Smythes, Mrs. W. H. Bell, W. N. Moore, and 2 in the steerage. For San Francisco:—Mr. Wm. Dunphy, Chung Gong and family, and 819 in the steerage. For Shanghai:—Captain Quick.

CARGOES.

Per American steamer *Oregonian*, from Hakodate:—

Treasure \$2,050.

Per French steamer *Tanais*, for Hongkong:—

Silk 69 bales.

Per American steamer *New York*, from Shanghai:—

Treasure \$20,048.

Per British steamer *Vancouver*, from San Francisco:—

Treasure \$264,000.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Pleiades* reports: fine weather up to Oosima, Kii Channel: since then experienced very heavy weather into port and was detained twelve hours outside through stress of weather. Passed H. M. S. *Iron Duke* on Friday at 3 p.m. standing to the northward.

The American steamer *Oregonian* reports: experienced fine weather throughout the whole voyage.

H. M. S. *Thalia* went down the Bay for gun practice yesterday.

The British steamer *Vancouver* reports: fine weather after leaving port until the 10th instant, when bad weather was experienced for several days; heavy gales blowing from the S. W. during the time; latterly had pleasant weather into port.

The American steamer *Colorado* reports: exchanged signals with the P. M. S. Co.'s steamer *Japan* on the 14th.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

LATITUDE. 35° 25' 41" North.

LONGITUDE. 139° 39' 0" East.

OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 9 A.M. LOCAL TIME.

Day of Week.	Day of Month.		August 1881.														
			Barometer.	Attached Thermometer.	Hygrometer.					Wind.		During past 24 hrs.					
					Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Dew Point.	Elastic force of Vapour.	Humidity 0—1.	Direction.	Force in lbs. per sq. ft.	Cloud. 0—10.	Max. in air.	Min. in air.	Mean in air.	Rain in Inches.	Ozone.
Sat.	July	11	29.49	72.0	75.0	72.0	70.7	.750	.866	calm.	.00	5	85.0	60.5	72.7	4.83	4.
Sun.	"	12	29.73	72.5	74.0	70.0	68.2	.689	.821	N. N. E.	.15	4	87.0	60.5	73.7	.00	3.
Mon.	"	13	29.97	72.5	71.5	70.0	69.3	.710	.930	E. N. E.	.59	10	80.0	64.0	72.0	.00	3.
Tues.	"	14	29.98	73.0	70.5	69.5	69.1	.710	.951	N. W.	.00	10	79.5	65.0	72.2	.67	3.
Wed.	"	15	30.01	78.5	81.5	78.0	76.7	.918	.855	S. S. E.	.51	4	91.0	67.5	84.2	.00	2.
Thurs.	"	16	29.90	77.5	84.5	80.0	78.5	.974	.822	S.	.00	0	88.0	64.5	76.2	.00	2.
Fri.	"	17	29.92	80.5	88.0	83.0	81.5	1.074	.810	S. W.	.04	1	94.5	67.5	81.0	.00	1.
Mean			29.86	75.2	77.8	74.6	73.4	.831	.865		.18	4	86.4	64.2	76.0	.78	2.

CAMP, Yokohama, July 18th, 1874.

J. H. SANDWITH,—Lieut.,
R.M.L.I.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

YOKOHAMA, JULY 18TH 1874.

THE only mail which has arrived during the present week is the *Vancouver* with San Francisco mails of the 25th ultimo on July 17th. The *Tanais* sailed for Hongkong on the 15th instant, and the *Colorado* will proceed to sea to-morrow at daylight en route for San Francisco.

The following report of the Import and Export markets is taken from the "JAPAN MAIL" of this date.

The heavy payments distributed on account of tea purchases have given a stimulus to the demand for manufactured goods, and the market is distinguished by greater buoyancy than we have been able to record for many weeks past. The Government are in the market as buyers of military stores—it is presumed for Formosa, and extensive purchases are reported as being made on their account. The tendency of the market for imports may be reported as decidedly firmer as the present mail closes.

Cotton Fabrics.—A stronger demand and a decidedly firmer tendency have been observable during the past week, and rates for all classes of fabrics have advanced in greater or less degree. *Shirtings* of good makes, 8½ lb. and 9 lb., have received the largest share of attention, the demand for the lighter weights being comparatively small. An advance upon the former of 8 to 10 cents per piece has been already established. The sales are estimated at 30,000 pieces since our last publication, and these are chiefly of the heavier weight. Other classes of cotton goods share the improvement we have noted, but business in them is exceedingly limited. *Turkey Red* though short in supply and apparently required does not advance, and though *Black Velvets* are in somewhat better demand holders of high-class chops—which alone are wanted—find it impossible to accommodate prices to the low views of the Japanese trade.

Cotton Yarns.—A fair amount of business has had effect within the past ten days, and has resulted in the establishment of a small improvement. Some 2,000 piculs have been sold, of which probably three-fourths consists of Nos. 16 to 24.

Iron and Metals.—For these but a small demand exists, and the sales reported are of an unimportant nature consisting chiefly of inferior makes of *Nail Rod*. Quotations are largely nominal.

Woollen Fabrics.—These are as a rule neglected by the trade, and the market presents few features deserving of special record. The Government being in the market for army clothing a quantity of blue cloth (about 1,000 pieces) has been taken off for this purpose at from 95 cents to \$1.10 per yard. A speculative demand exists for *Presidents* and *Pilots*, but the rates offering do not lead to business. The stock of *Mousselines de Laine* is increasing, and the demand has fallen off completely.

Sugar.—Since the issue of our last Mail Summary the market has been without much activity and the arrival from Takao of a heavy shipment on the 5th instant has further tended to lower its tone. Sales have been: 4,000 piculs *Daitong* \$3.25-29; 2,100 piculs, *Takao* at \$4.10 and 850 piculs *Hongkong Refined* at \$8.20.

Kerosene Oil has been in fair enquiry, and several parcels of well known brands, aggregating 2,500 cases, have changed hands at \$3.25 to \$3.27½ by private sale. At auction 4,500 cases have been disposed of at from \$2.75 to \$3 in bond. The market value ranges from \$3.20 to \$3.27½.

QUOTATIONS FOR ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

GOODS.	PRICES.	GOODS.	PRICES.
Cotton Piece Goods.		WOOLLENS.—Continued.	
Grey Shirtings:—		Plain Mousseline de Laine... 30 yds. 30 in.	0.18 ½
7 lbs. 38½ yds. 39 in. per pce.	\$2.00 to \$2.15	Figured do. ... 30 yds. 30 in.	0.28 to 0.30
8 " " " " 38½ " 44 in. "	2.35 to 2.50	Multicolored do. ... 30 yds 30 in.	0.30 to 0.38
8 lbs. 4 to 8 lbs. 6 ditto 39 in. "	2.35½ to 2.60	Cloth, all wool plain or fancy, 48 in. to 52 in.	1.00 to 1.10
9 lbs. " " " " 44 in. "	2.75 to 3.00	Presidents... " " 54 in. to 56 in.	0.67½ to 0.80
White Shirtings:—		Pilots " " " 54 in. to 56 in.	0.45 to 0.55
56 to 60 reed 40 yds. 35 in. nominal "	2.50 to 2.60	Union " " " 54 in. to 56 in.	.....
64 to 72 " ditto... " " "	2.70 to 2.90	Blankets, scarlet & green 7 to 8 lbs. per lb.	0.40 to 0.45
T. Cloth:—6 lbs. " " " "	1.50 to 1.60		
7 " " " " " " "	1.90 to 2.00		
Drills, English—15 lbs.... " " "	3.20 to 3.30		
Handkerchiefs Assorted " " per doz.	0.45 to 0.80	Metals and Sundries.	
Brocades & Spots (White) " " per pce.	nominal.	Iron flat and round " " " per pel	3.75 to 4.10
ditto (Dyed) " " " "		" nail rod " " " " " "	3.80 to 4.50
Chintz (Assorted) 24 yds. 30 in. "	1.45 to 2.25	" hoop " " " " " "	4.50 nominal
Turkey Reds 25 yds. 30 in. 2½—3 lb. per lb.	0.87 to 0.97½	" sheet... " " " " " "	
Velvets (Black) 35 yds. 22 in. nominal	7.75 to 9.00	" wire " " " " " "	8.00 to 9.00
Victoria Lawns 12 yds. 42 in. " per pce.	0.95 to 1.00	" pig " " " " " "	
Taffachelass single weft 12 yds 43 in. "	2.40 to 2.70	Lead " " " " " " "	Nominal.
ditto (double weft) " " "	2.70 to 2.95	Tin Plates... " " " " per box.	8.50
Cotton Yarns.		SUGAR. —Formosa in Bag " " per picul.	3.75 to 4.10
No. 16 to 24 " " " " per picul.	\$37.00 to 40.00	in Basket " " nom....	3.60 to 3.70
Reverse " " " " " "	38.00 to 38.50	China No. 1 Ping fah " "	8.20 to 8.30
" 28 to 32 " " " " " "	37.50 to 39.00	do. No. 2 Ching-pak " "	
" 38 to 42 " small stock nom. "	42.00 to 48.50	do. No. 3 Ke-pak " "	7.20 to 7.50
Woollens & Woollen Mixtures.		do. No. 4 Kook-fah " "	6.40 to 7.00
Plain Orleans " " 40—42 yds. 32 in.	5.90 to 8.00	do. No. 5 Kong-fuw " "	5.70 to 6.20
Figured Orleans " " 29—30 yds. 31 in.	4.50 to 5.25	do. No. 6 E-pak " "	4.80 to 5.40
Italian Cloth " " 30 yds. 32 in.	0.25 to 0.36	Swatow... " " " " " "	3.40 to 3.50
Camlet Cords " " 29—30 yds. 32 in.	6.25 to 7.25	Daitoong " " " " " "	3.20 to 3.30
Camlets Asstd. " " 56—58 yds. 31 in.	18.50 to 19.00	Sugar Candy... " " " " " "	9.50 to 11.00
Lastings Japan " " 29—30 yds. 32 in.	14.00 to 16.00	Raw Cotton (Shanghai new) " "	15.25 to 15.50
		Rice Japan... " " " " " "	2.96

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—The season 1873-74 closed on the 30th ultimo with a total export of 14,520 bales against 14,228 for the previous season.

Last year the new Hanks commenced to arrive on June 18th. The quality was good, supplies fairly abundant and the demand active. The opening prices were \$580 to \$600 for medium say at exchange 4/6, 23/6 and fr. 66. Towards the middle of July 650 bales had been settled.

This year, the first musters of the new season made their appearance on the 27th June. Since that date arrivals barely amount to 200 bales of new Hanks, the bulk of which in point of quality falls very short of medium and realized, we should think, an average of \$460, the parity of which, at Exchange 4/2½ and 5.40 is 18/ and fr. 50 (covering all charges). There is a strong indispotion on the part of the native dealers to bring their silk to the foreign market; they endeavour to hold it in the country for higher rates.

Tea.—A foreshadowing of the probable unfavorable result of early shipments of New Crop Teas to New York generally pervaded our market, and business for the past fortnight has been somewhat quieter and restricted to two or three operators.

Settlements since 5th inst. to date amount to 6,500 piculs, mostly Good Medium and Fine, and afford little to comment on, prices ruling much as last quoted; but the general character of parcels on show is rather inferior to earlier supplies.

Full supplies of second-crop teas may be expected in the course of the next few days and this, coupled with the telegraphic advices received by some firms here of the result of their first shipments this season to the New York market, cannot fail to depress rates. Unless native dealers make extensive concessions a dull and limited business may be looked for.

Supplies for the last few days have come in freely, and stocks in first hands amount to some 6,000 piculs.

The following vessels are on the berth for American Ports:—

For New York direct: *Benefactor*; *S. G. Reed*.

For New York via Suez Canal *Bengal S. S.*; *Pleiades S. S.*; *Duna S. S.*

For San Francisco *John Rennie*.

EXPORTS.

GOODS.		PRICES.	LAI'D DOWN AND SOLD IN LONDON. Ex. 6mos. at 4s. 4½d.	LAI'D DOWN AND SOLD IN LYONS. Ex. at 5.55 @ 6 mos.
Silk:—				
HANKS.	Maßbaali Extra ...	...	
	and Best ...	...	
	Shinshiu Good ...	...	
	Medium ...	...	
	Inferior ...	...	
OSHIO	Extra ...	...	
"	Best ...	...	
"	Good ...	...	
"	Medium ...	...	
"	Inferior ...	...	
HAMATSEKI	...	...
SODAI	Medium ...	...	
ETCHESEN	Medium ...	...	
Tea:—				
	Common ...	...	
	Good Common ...	\$30.00 to 34.00 nom.		
	Medium ...	\$35.00 to 37.00 "		
	Good Medium ...	\$38.00 to 40.00 "		
	Fine ...	\$41.00 to 44.00 "		
	Finest ...	\$45.00 to 48.00 "		
	Choice ...	\$50.00 upwards. "		
	Choicest "	None		
Sundries:—				
	Mushrooms ...	\$38.00 to 45.00 "		
	Isinglass ...	\$25.00 to 46.00 "		
	Sharks' Fins ...	\$28.00 to 48.00 "		
	White Wax ...	\$14.00 to 16.00 "		
	Bees Do. ...	\$10.00 to 47.00 "		
	Cuttle fish ...	\$11.00 to 12.00 "		
	Dried Shrimps ...	\$14.00 to 16.00 "		
	Seaweed, ...	\$ 1.10 to 2.50 "		
	Gallnuts ...	\$12.00 to 13.00 "		
	Tobacco ...	\$ 6.50 to 9.50 "		
	Sulphur ...	\$ 2.40 to 3.20 "		
	Wheat ...	\$ 1.20 to 1.60 "		
	Shellfish ...	\$16.00 to 40.00 "		
	Camphor ...	\$15.50 to 16.50 "		
	Bêche de Mer ...	\$19.00 to 60.00 "		
	Ginseng, 50 to 100 pieces	\$ 3.50 to 5.50 "		
	100 to 200 "	\$ 2.20 to 3.20 "		

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HERBERT COPE,
Acting Manager.

Yokohama, May 1, 1874.

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Tea and Waste Silk.....	\$0.05 per lb. Gross.
Raw Silk	0.10 " "
General Merchandise.....	1.25 per foot.

To CHICAGO, ST. LOUIS, CINCINNATI, INDIANAPOLIS,
 MILWAUKEE AND DUBUQUE.

Tea and Waste Silk.....	\$0.04½ per lb. Gross.
Raw Silk.....	0.09½ " "
General Merchandise.....	1.20 per foot.

Further information can be obtained at the Offices of the undersigned.

HUDSON, MALCOLM & Co.,
Agents.

Yokohama, July 18, 1874.

tf.

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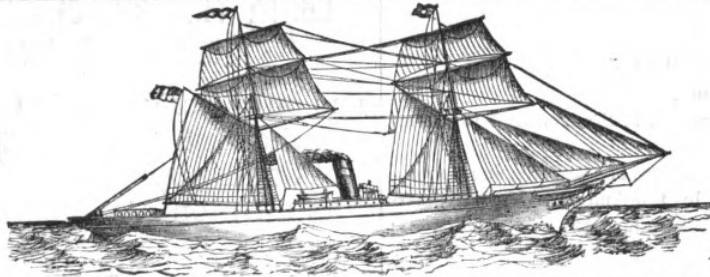
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